Green Power

The Green Power Network Monthly Update – June 2011

This update summarizes recent green power marketing activity, including news and information on competitive green power marketing, utility green pricing programs, renewable energy certificates, green power purchasing, and related market activity. Additional information on green power markets and products, as well as links to the companies mentioned below, can be found on the U.S. Department of Energy's Green Power Network.

Announcements

- Webinar – Consumer Attitudes about Renewable Energy

News

- Cincinnati Bell Energy Launches Green Energy Offer
- Iowa State Expands Wind Purchase
- SoftLayer to Purchase 10 Million kWh of Wind
- New Community Solar Projects Launch in Colorado and Washington
- WindMade Label Standard Open for Public Comment
- Pasta Prima Uses 100 percent Green Power
- NM Green Chamber of Commerce Partners with SunPower
- Puget Sound Energy Launches Green Offer for Natural Gas Customers

Renewable Energy RFPs

- SRECTrade Monthly Auction
- National Nuclear Security Administration (Ref. No. DE-SOL-0003006)
- Western Area Power Administration
- Georgia Power Company
- San Diego Gas & Electric Co. RFO
- Washington TRU Solutions, LLC
- The Inter-American Development Bank
- Defense Logistics Agency
- United Illuminating Company and Connecticut Light & Power Company
- Hawaiian Electric Co. Inc.

Source: Green Power News Network, 7/1/11

Visit U.S. DOE EERE Green Power Network for more information.

Renewable Energy Technologies

Pyron Solar announces First Full-Scale CPV Installation (Ind. Report)

The world's first full-scale installation for Pyron Solar's unique concentrated photovoltaic (CPV) solar energy system has achieved a milestone with performance results from a prototype test site that measured the power-production of Pyron's floating CPV system. Pyron Solar's numbers published are significantly stronger than those from any conventional solar technology in the global renewable energy market.

Vista, California-headquartered Pyron Solar's system is producing power from an array of solar cells exposed to highly concentrated sunlight. Large magnifying lenses along with the secondary optic create a flux on the solar cells 1,200 times greater than natural levels - which double the published concentration levels of competitor systems.

Achieving high concentration levels while maintaining low cell temperatures is a key technical issue to commercially viable CPV systems. By comparison, most air-cooled CPV systems in the marketplace are generating electricity at around 500-600 suns. Under contract to San Diego Gas & Electric, Pyron Solar built and is testing its first field prototype system to demonstrate its technology for potential broad commercial applications. The company's proprietary system is suspended in and cooled by water and is specially designed for utility and commercial scale projects. The Pyron low-profile system is designed to provide an efficient and cost-effective source of renewable power, and can employ potable water or wastewater.

The output of the Pyron Solar system was measured delivering up to 20 watts per cell during standard operating conditions, more than 19 percent greater power per cell than any CPV manufacturer has published to date.

A one-megawatt installation of the Pyron Solar system would consist of approximately 50 arrays that can be placed on 3.1 acres, by far the smallest footprint in the CPV industry. (Source: Pyron Solar, July, 6, 2011)

Contact: Stephanie Rosenthal, President, Pyron Solar, 760-599-5100. *Source: Energy Overviews, 7/11/11*

Geothermal industry to get boost from University of Nevada, Reno research

Baseline study to help reduce upfront exploration costs

An ambitious University of Nevada, Reno project to understand and characterize geothermal potential at nearly 500 sites throughout the Great Basin is yielding a bounty of information for the geothermal industry to use in developing resources in Nevada, according to a report to the U.S. Department of Energy.

The project, based in the University's Bureau of Mines and Geology in the College of Science, is funded by a $1 million DOE grant from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. It has reached the one-year mark and is entering phase two, when five or six of the 250 identified potentially viable geothermal sites will be studied in more detail. Some of the studied sites will even have 3-D imaging to help those in the industry better understand geothermal processes and identify where to drill for the hot fluids. Read more. *Source: University of Nevada, 7/7/11*

Electric Co-ops Buy 40 MW Of Wind Power

Three generation and transmission cooperatives (G&Ts) have announced the purchase of 40 MW of wind energy from the Pioneer Trail Wind Farm, which is under development east of Paxton, Ill.

The three member-owned G&Ts—Prairie Power Inc., Southern Illinois Power Cooperative and Wabash Valley Power Association—are entering into an 18-year power purchase agreement with E.ON Climate & Renewable North America Inc. The agreement was coordinated through the National Renewables Cooperative Organization (NRCO), which was formed to promote and facilitate the development of economically viable renewable energy resources for its member cooperatives across the United States. Read more. *Source: RenewGrid, 7/6/11*

Renewable Energy Reaches Milestone Domestic Production Surpasses Nuclear and Closes in on Oil

Renewable electricity expands by 26 %, reaches 13 % of net U.S. electrical generation

According to the most recent issue of the "Monthly Energy Review" by the U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA), renewable energy has passed a milestone as domestic production is now greater than that of nuclear power and is closing in on oil.

During the first quarter of 2011, renewable energy sources (biomass/biofuels, geothermal, solar, water, wind) provided 2.245 quadrillion Btus of energy or 11.73 percent of U.S. energy production. More significantly, energy production from renewable energy sources in 2011 was 5.65 percent more than that from nuclear power, which provided 2.125 quadrillion Btus and has remained largely unchanged in recent years. Energy from renewable sources is now 77.15 percent of that from domestic crude oil production, with the gap closing rapidly.

Looking at all energy sectors (e.g., electricity, transportation, thermal), production of renewable energy, including hydropower, has increased by 15.07 percent compared to the first quarter of 2010, and by 25.07 percent when compared to the first quarter of 2009. Among the renewable energy sources, biomass/biofuels accounted for 48.06 percent, hydropower for 35.41 percent, wind for 12.87 percent, geothermal for 2.45 percent, and solar for 1.16 percent.

Looking at just the electricity sector, according to the latest issue of EIA's "Electric Power Monthly," for the first quarter of 2011, renewable energy sources (biomass, geothermal, solar, water, wind) accounted for 12.94 percent of net U.S. electrical generation—up from 10.31 percent during the same period in 2010. Non-hydro renewables accounted for 4.74 percent of net U.S. electrical generation.

In terms of actual production, renewable electrical output increased by 25.82 percent in the first three months of 2011 compared to the first quarter of 2010. Solar-generated electricity increased by 104.8 percent, wind-generated electricity rose by 40.3 percent, hydropower output expanded by 28.7 percent, and geothermal electrical generation rose by 5.8 percent. Only electricity from biomass sources dropped—by 4.8 percent. By comparison, natural gas electrical output rose by 1.8 percent and nuclear-generated electricity increased by only 0.4 percent while coal-generated electricity dropped by 5.7 percent. *Source: Sun Day Campaign, 7/6/11*

New Interactive Map Reveals US Tidal Energy Resources

Tidal energy—one of the fastest growing emerging technologies in the renewable sector—holds great promise for clean energy generation. And now, a first of its kind database gives researchers deeper insight into the potential of this vast energy resource for the United States.

The online database, developed at the Georgia Institute of Technology (Georgia Tech) with the help of a $469,500 award from the U.S. Department of Energy, maps the energy available in the nation's tidal streams. Researchers at Georgia Tech's Savannah campus used the Regional Ocean Model to simulate tidal flows along the entire U.S. coastline, which is marked by thousands of streams, rivers and bays subject to daily tides. DOE's Oak Ridge National

Laboratory validated the model's accuracy and the resulting data are now publically available. Read more. *Source: DOE Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, 7/6/11*

Ocean Power Technologies: PB150 exceeds performance expectations

Marine energy developer Ocean Power Technologies Inc. announced that the first of its new generation utility-scale PowerBuoy device, the PB150, has delivered better-than-expected initial results in ocean tests.

Rated at 150 kW, electrical power generated by the PB150 has included peaks of more than 400 kW, with average electrical power output of 45 kW at wave heights as low as 2 meters. These levels of power exceeded OPT's expectations of performance for this first PB150 deployment and verifies that the system could produce up to 150 kW, on average, in higher wave conditions, OPT reported. Read more. *Source: HydroWorld, 6/28/11*

Chicken poo to power poultry farm

A farm will power its chicken production through Anaerobic Digestion (AD) from next month.

The Great Ynys Farm, in Hereford, will use the waste from chickens to generate a new income stream as a renewable energy generator.

Boasting 125 acres of arable land and 90,000 broiler chickens, the green electricity will power the poultry houses and AD system with about 90 percent of the power sold to the National Grid. Read more. *Source: edieEnergy, 7/5/11*

Florida biomass plant developer obtains construction finance

Developers of the Gainesville Renewable Energy Center (GREC), a 100MW biomass power plant in northern Florida, have raised nearly $500m in construction financing to allow project completion on schedule in late 2013.

The non-recourse debt financing is being provided by Bank of Tokyo-Mitsubishi UFJ, which acted as coordinating lead arranger, and other lenders including Credit Agricole, ING Capital and Rabobank Nederland.

A non-recourse loan is one under which the lender's source of repayment is the cash flow generated by a project being financed. Read more. *Source: ReCharge, 7/5/11*

Solar Markets in the U.S: big, booming, and oh so bright

Thanks to strong consumer demand and financial incentives at the federal and local levels, the U.S. solar market is booming. The Interstate Renewable Energy Council released today the Solar Market Trends report for 2010. The report includes 2010 installation data for solar electric (photovoltaic), solar heating and cooling, and concentrating solar technologies. Read more. *Source: Interstate Renewable Energy Council, 7/1/11*

Global Photovoltaic Module Inventories to End Q2'11 at 8.6 GW

Manufacturers to Cut Back on 2011 Production Plans

Weak European photovoltaic (PV) market demand in the first half of 2011 caused global solar module inventories to soar at the end of Q2'11, according to the conclusions of the latest *Solarbuzz Quarterly* report issued today.

Initial estimates from Solarbuzz show that Q2'11 shipments fell by 22 percent Q/Q compared to the increase of 12 percent Q/Q projected by manufacturers during the quarter. Even with demand rising 79 percent Q/Q and production falling an estimated 20 percent Q/Q, quarterly cell and module inventories still increased by 559 MW. Inventories are now forecast to reach a record 8.6 GW by the end of Q2'11, with upstream inventories showing a sharp 36 percent increase over the quarter, in contrast to a small reduction in the downstream. This excess supply caused factory-gate module prices to drop by 9 percent in Europe in Q2'11 and 16 percent since the start of the year. Read more. *Solarbuzz, 6/30/11*

Wind energy integration: Some fundamental facts

The online publications Climate Progress and Grist recently featured an article by Stephen Lacey on innovative ways in which utility system operators are working to integrate wind, a variable source of electricity generation, with other parts of their systems.

While the article examines some interesting and cutting-edge approaches, AWEA Manager of Transmission Policy Michael Goggin, in a comment posted on both publications, reminds us of some basic facts that should always be kept in mind when wind integration is discussed:

"Thanks for the interesting article. The quote from the International Energy Agency (IEA) hits the nail on the head about how wind energy is integrated onto the power grid: Read more. *Source: AWEA Blog: Into the Wind, 6/23/11*

Top five coolest ways to integrate renewable energy into the grid

Intermittent renewables at high penetrations will bring new challenges for the grid. But how big will they be? And is it true that wind and solar will necessarily need storage or natural gas back-up at high levels?

The International Energy Agency (IEA) wanted to know, so it modeled a variety of high-penetration scenarios in eight geographic regions around the world. Hugo Chandler, a senior policy analyst with the IEA, explains the organization's findings to Climate Progress: Read more. *Source: Grist, 6/17/11*

DOE Offers Support for Innovative Manufacturing Plant That Will Produce High Quality Solar Silicon at Low Cost

U.S. Energy Secretary Steven Chu today announced the offer of a conditional commitment for a $275 million loan guarantee to Calisolar Inc. to commercialize its innovative solar silicon manufacturing process. Calisolar's innovative process should produce silicon for use in solar cells at less than half the cost of traditional polysilicon purification processes, which will reduce the overall cost of solar modules and panels. At full production, the manufacturing plant is expected to produce 16,000 metric tons (MT) of solar silicon annually, equivalent to more than two gigawatts of solar power generation per year. The project will be built in three phases of 5,333 MT capacity each, and is expected to be located in a former General Motors stamping plant in Ontario, Richland County, Ohio. Calisolar estimates that the facility will generate, at its peak, nearly 1,100 permanent jobs and up to 1,000 construction jobs. Read more. *Source: DOE Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, 6/16/11*

Learn more about renewable resources.

Outreach, Education, Reports & Studies

New Study Reveals Challenges and Opportunities in U.S. Wind Power Market

Despite a trying year in which wind power capacity additions declined significantly compared to both 2008 and 2009, the U.S. remained one of the fastest-growing wind power markets in the world in 2010—second only to China—according to a report released today by the U.S. Department of Energy and prepared by Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory (Berkeley Lab) Read more. *Source: Lawrence Berkeley Laboratory, 7/12/11*

Comprehensive Guide to Studying Wind Energy/Wildlife Interactions

This resource document of the Wildlife Workgroup is intended as a guide to persons involved in designing, conducting, or requiring wind energy/wildlife interaction studies.

The document follows a general framework for progressing through the decision process for a proposed wind project and a guide to methods and metrics for use in the necessary studies.

The guide is relevant to the study of any wildlife species, although the focus is on birds and bats. Read more. *Source: National Wind Coordinating Council, 7/13/11*

Reno Mayor Bob Cashell to Kick Off First-Ever GEA National Geothermal Summit

From Aug. 16-17, the GEA National Geothermal Summit will convene industry and government leaders in one of the world's most important geothermal business centers, Reno, Nev. The event will feature a welcome address from the Honorable Bob Cashell, Mayor of Reno. Summit attendees will discuss key opportunities for the geothermal energy industry, as well as challenges to its success and growth.

"The City of Reno is proud to have 100 megawatts of geothermal power, enough to supply the entire residential load, permitted and being produced within the city limits. We are excited that experts from around the country and world are coming to Reno to learn more about geothermal development," Mayor Cashell said. Read more. *Source: GEA, 7/11/11*

New Report Issued on the Benefits of Geothermal Use in the Eastern United States

Bob Lawrence & Associates, Inc. in partnership with the Geo-Heat Center of the Oregon Institute of Technology announces the release of a report entitled "The Economic, Environmental, and Social Benefits of Geothermal Use in the Eastern United States."

Authored by the Geo-Heat Center, the report describes the use of geothermal energy east of the Mississippi River. Documented direct uses of geothermal waters-primarily for spas and resorts with some space heating-currently exist in Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, North Carolina, and Virginia.

Geothermal-related businesses across the Eastern U.S. create an estimated 450 direct, indirect, and induced jobs.

In addition to job-creation, geothermal use in the region prevents the emissions of greenhouse gases (GHG) and air pollutants, offsetting the emission of at least 7,333 tonnes of carbon dioxide each year-the equivalent of 17,300 barrels of oil.

The Eastern States have significant geothermal potential for future uses, from new and expanding applications of direct use heating, to resurgence in mineral spa therapy, to development of low-to-moderate temperature resources for electrical power generation.

In particular, West Virginia sits atop geothermal hot spots, some as warm as 392 degrees Fahrenheit at depths as shallow as five kilometers. If this geothermal energy could be feasibly tapped, the state could become a significant producer of geothermal power.

The Eastern United States report is supported by the U.S. Department of Energy through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. *Source: Bob Lawrence and Assoc., 7/11/11*

Workshop focuses on codes, standards for PV interconnection

Effectively interconnecting high-level penetration of photovoltaic (PV) systems requires careful technical attention to ensuring compatibility with electric power systems. Standards, codes and implementation have been cited as major impediments to widespread use of PV within electric power systems. On May 20, 2010, in Denver, Colo., the National Renewable Energy Laboratory, in conjunction with the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy (EERE), held a workshop to examine the key technical issues and barriers associated with high PV penetration levels with an emphasis on codes and standards. This workshop included building upon results of the High Penetration of Photovoltaic (PV) Systems into the Distribution Grid workshop held in Ontario, Calif., on Feb. 24-25, 2009, and upon the stimulating presentations of the diverse stakeholder presentations. *Source: National Renewable Energy Laboratory, 7/6/11*

Recent Publications and Websites Report Examines Cost Models in CREST

A new subcontract report, *Renewable Energy Cost Modeling: A Toolkit for Establishing Cost-Based Incentives in the United States* (PDF 1.3 MB), serves as a resource for policymakers who wish to learn more about levelized cost of energy (LCOE) calculations, including cost-based incentives. The report identifies key renewable energy cost modeling options, highlights the policy implications of choosing one approach over the other, and presents recommendations on the optimal characteristics of a model to calculate rates for cost-based incentives, feed-in tariffs (FITs), or similar policies. According to the report, effective cost models:

- Allow for simple, intermediate, or complex installed cost inputs so that the model is useful in the full range of potential policymaking
- Enable recognition of the full range of typical financing and development costs
- Focus on after-tax returns, assuming that investors can monetize tax incentives
- Enable consideration of the most common federal and state incentives

These recommendations shaped the design of NREL's Cost of Renewable Energy Spreadsheet Tool (CREST), which is used by state policymakers, regulators, utilities, developers, and other stakeholders to assist with analyses of policy and renewable energy incentive payment structures. *Source: NREL Strategic Energy Analysis Center, 7/7/11*

Revising Western's IRP principles

Western released a June 29, 2011, Federal Register Notice announcing proposed revisions to its *Final Principles of Integrated Resource Planning*, which has been in place since July 1995. Specifically, Western is looking to achieve two changes with this public process:

- Eliminate the transmission planning principles
- Modify the resource acquisition evaluation criteria to move away from "project-by-project" criteria

The new evaluation process would be based on set Westernwide criteria and will better define the process for acquiring project-specific, long-term resources. This will give Western greater flexibility to expedite long-term purchases when needed—whether to replace or support Federal hydropower facilities or because of drought impacts.

As part of the public process to change the IRP principles, Western is currently accepting comments on the program through July 21. Read more. *Source: Western Area Power Administration, 6/29/11*

NREL report examines cost-based incentives for renewable energy

Renewable Energy Cost Modeling: A Toolkit for Establishing Cost-Based Incentives in the United States is intended to serve as a resource for policymakers who wish to learn more about establishing cost-based incentives. The report will identify key renewable energy cost modeling options, highlight the policy implications of choosing one approach over the other, and present recommendations on the optimal characteristics of a model to calculate rates for cost-based incentives, feed-in tariffs (FITs), or similar policies. These recommendations will be utilized in designing the Cost of Renewable Energy Spreadsheet Tool (CREST). Three CREST models will be publicly available and capable of analyzing the cost of energy associated with solar, wind, and geothermal electricity generators. The CREST models will be developed for use by state policymakers, regulators, utilities, developers, and other stakeholders to assist them in current and future rate-setting processes for both FIT and other renewable energy incentive payment structures and policy analyses. *Source: National Renewable Energy Laboratory, 6/29/11*

First National Geothermal Summit brings industry together on policy, permitting

The GEA National Geothermal Summit, Aug. 16 to 17 in Reno, Nev., will bring together industry and government leaders from both the state and national level for the first time

to talk about geothermal energy and some of the key opportunities and challenges to its success and growth.

Agenda topics will cover Outlooks for Washington D.C. and the Western States, Building New Transmission Projects in the Western States, New Renewable Energy Policy Developments in California, and Moving Geothermal Forward on Public Lands. There will also be an Expo Hall featuring government agencies, universities and leading geothermal developers from the growing geothermal industry.

A block of rooms has been reserved for attendees at the Grand Sierra Resort for Aug. 15-17. Register for the event online, or contact Kathy Kent at 202-454-5263 for more information.

Western Area Power Administration joins Ormat; Stoel Rives, LLP; and the City of Reno in supporting the National Geothermal Summit. *Source: Public Renewables Partnership, 6/27/11*

Guidebook to Geothermal Power Finance

The *Guidebook to Geothermal Power Finance* (the Guidebook), funded by the U.S. Department of Energy's Geothermal Technologies Program, provides insights and conclusions related to past influences and recent trends in the geothermal power project financing market before and after the 2008 economic downturn.

Using the information in the Guidebook, developers and investors can innovate in new ways and develop partnerships that match investors' risk tolerance with the capital requirements of geothermal power projects in a dynamic and evolving marketplace. Read more. *Source: National Renewable Energy Laboratory, 6/15/11*

Learn more about education and outreach activities.

News from Washington

Department of Energy Commits Support for Landmark Rooftop Solar Project

U.S. Energy Secretary Steven Chu today announced the offer of a conditional commitment to provide a partial guarantee for a $1.4 billion loan to support Project Amp. This project will support the installation of solar panels on industrial buildings across the country, with the electricity generated from those panels contributing directly to the electrical grid, as opposed to powering the buildings where they are installed. Supported by funding from the Recovery Act, the solar generation project includes the installation of approximately 733 megawatts (MW) of photovoltaic (PV) solar panels, which is nearly equal to the total amount of PV installed in the U.S. in 2010. The project sponsor estimates Project Amp will create at least one thousand jobs over a four year period.

"This unprecedented solar project will not only produce clean, renewable energy to power the grid in states across the country, but it will help us meet the SunShot goal of achieving cost competitive solar power with other forms of energy by the end of the decade," said Secretary Chu. "In addition, Project Amp will create at least a thousand jobs across the U.S. and increase our global competitiveness in the clean energy race." Read more. *Source: DOE Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, 6/22/11*

Learn more about national activities.

State Activities, Marketing & Market Research

Federal Agency Could Speed Offshore Wind for New Jersey

If approved, new permitting process could cut two years off the time needed to deploy wind farms off the Jersey coast

The federal government has launched a study that could shave up to two years off the timeframe for developing wind farms off the coast of New Jersey.

The U.S. Department of Interior is seeking comment on a draft Environmental Assessment to consider potential environmental and economic effects of issuing renewable energy leases in designated Wind Energy Areas off New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland and Virginia.

The announcement was hailed by advocates of offshore wind who have long complained the current extensive permitting time, projected to run between seven and nine years, is one of the biggest impediments to developing a cleaner source of electricity to serve the Eastern Seaboard. Read more. *Source: NJ Spotlight, 7/13/11*

PNM wants more wind power

PNM challenges commission order to buy wind power

Public Service Company of New Mexico is challenging a directive from state regulators that it buy more wind power for its electricity customers.

A PNM spokeswoman initially said the utility would comply with a state Public Regulation Commission order by spending up to $6 million annually for wind power from a New Mexico plant.

But the company changed course last week and now says it will fight the commission's order. Read more. *Source: KASA Channel 2, 7/10/11*

EERE State News Monthly Report: June 1 - June 30, 2011

The U.S. Department of Energy Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy (EERE) publishes this summary of news stories posted the past month on the *EERE State Activities & Partnerships* Web site. EERE collects news stories dealing with state involvement in renewable energy and energy efficiency projects from EERE technology program Web sites, the State Energy Program, and *EERE Network News*. Read more. *Source: DOE Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, 7/1/11*

RI Supreme Court Upholds Block Island Wind Farm Power Contract

A Rhode Island Supreme Court ruling today paves the way for Deepwater Wind to advance the permitting and development of its planned Block Island Wind Farm, which remains on track to be the first offshore wind farm in the nation.

The Supreme Court upheld Deepwater Wind's power purchase agreement with National Grid for the renewable energy generated from the planned Block Island Wind Farm. The Rhode Island Public Utilities Commission had approved the power purchase contract in August 2010. Read more. *Source: Deepwater Wind, 7/5/11*

San Francisco Launches Solar@Work

Innovative Model Creates Breakthrough in Solar Affordability for Small Businesses

More than 2 Megawatts of new solar installations expected, making solar power accessible to businesses in the Bay Area without local rebates

The City of San Francisco launched Solar@Work, a new program that offers solar energy systems to businesses in the Bay Area through an innovative group purchase model. The new program makes it possible, for the first time, for small- and mid-sized businesses and commercial property owners to pay less for solar power than they pay for electricity from the grid, without local rebates. This can allow some business owners to save hundreds of thousands of dollars over the lifetimes of these solar power systems. As the first major commercial group purchase of solar power in the United States, Solar@Work will bring together interested participants to buy more than 2 Megawatts (MW) of solar power over the next six months. Read more. *Source: World Resources Institute, 7/13/11*

California releases over $5 million in geothermal grants

The California Energy Commission awarded over $5 million in grants to four geothermal projects to help attain the state target of sourcing 33 percent of its energy from renewables by 2020.

The grants totaling $5.5 million will be matched with a total of $7.9 million in private funding from the awarded companies.

"Currently, geothermal produces more than 6 percent of California in-state electricity production with the potential for more. These projects will further develop California's geothermal resources and help advance California's clean energy goals," said Energy Commission vice chair James Boyd. Read more. *Source: EcoSeed, 7/4/11*

Gold rush for renewable energy in Antelope Valley

Antelope Valley is betting big in renewable energy.

Two solar projects have already been approved for unincorporated Los Angeles County. Eight other renewable energy projects have been proposed. Of these, NextEra Energy Resources of Juno Beach, Fla. and Portland-based Element Power US, want to build facilities that would become the county's first utility-scale wind turbine facilities, towering hundreds of feet high. Read more. *Source: Los Angeles Times, 7/4/11*

KCC Approves Prairie Wind Transmission-Line Route

The Kansas Corporation Commission (KCC) has approved the Prairie Wind transmission-line route, as filed by Prairie Wind Transmission, with modifications based on proposals by some landowners along and near the route.

Prairie Wind proposed its route to the KCC after extensive consultation with landowners, environmental groups, and state and federal wildlife agencies. The KCC approved a route that incorporated suggestions proposed by area landowners, some of which lower the estimated cost of the project, Prairie Wind says. Read more. *Source: RenewGrid, 6/30/11*

Construction Firms Sign On To CREZ Transmission Projects

Electric Transmission Texas LLC (ETT) has executed master agreements with three construction firms for transmission and infrastructure services associated with the competitive renewable energy zone (CREZ) projects assigned to ETT by the Public Utility Commission of Texas (PUCT). Read more. *Source: RenewGrid, 7/1/11*

Sandoval vetoes energy bill, calls it 'unfair burden' on taxpayers

Gov. Brian Sandoval on Friday vetoed a bill he said could have stuck Nevada's electricity ratepayers with costs to develop major transmission projects to send energy out of state.

The transmission provisions, which critics said could cost ratepayers as much as $1 billion, were contained in an amendment attached in the final moments of the legislative session to Assembly Bill 416. Read more. *Source: Las Vegas Review Journal, 6/17/11*

Pattern Energy Begins Construction on Nevada's First Wind Farm

Spring Valley Wind Will Create 225 Jobs and Generate Enough Clean Energy to Power 45,000 homes

Pattern Energy Group LP (Pattern) today announced it has begun construction on the Spring Valley Wind project. The project is located on public lands in northern Spring Valley, approximately 30 miles east of Ely, Nevada, and will be the state's first wind energy project.

The 150 megawatt (MW) Spring Valley Wind project will take approximately one year to build and will create approximately 225 jobs during construction, with a preference given to qualified local workers and contractors. The wind project will also create up to 13 full-time permanent positions once operational and generate new business and tax revenue for the state and White Pine County community.

"I'm pleased that construction has begun on Nevada's first utility-scale wind farm, creating jobs that help diversify our economy," said Senator Harry Reid. "Wind is an abundant natural resource that Nevada can harness on our path to become energy independent. Projects like this will convert our vast renewable energy potential into new economic opportunity and make Nevada a global leader in clean energy." Read more. *Source: Pattern Energy, 6/15/11*

Learn more about energy analysis.

Grants, RFPs & Other Funding News

Department of Energy Grants LSU $1 Million to Research Geothermal Energy

Oil and gas advocates question geothermal's economic viability

In its latest endorsement of green energy, the United States Department of Energy awarded Louisiana State University $997,000 for a project to evaluate the feasibility of an advanced geothermal energy project.

The Energy Department's Geothermal Technologies Program is releasing up to $70 million in new funding within the next three years to incentivize further development of geothermal energy in the U.S. The Obama administration's goal of generating 80 percent of electricity from renewable resources by 2035 is heavily dependent on utilizing geothermal energy. Read more. *Source: The Pelican Post, 7/11/11*

Over $259 Million in Federal Funding Available for State, Local, and Tribal Governments

The U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE's) Tribal Energy Program is pleased to forward the following information on funding opportunities available to tribal, state and local governments. (Information provided courtesy of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's State and Local Climate and Energy Program.)

- DOE SunShot Initiative: Rooftop Solar Challenge to Induce Market Transformation – Approximately $12.5 million Applications due: Aug. 31, 2011. Eligible applicants: State or territorial governments; local governments; consortia made up of regional or statewide teams of local governments, large single jurisdictions, or Indian tribes; and entities representing a total population of more than 500,000, which are authorized to act on behalf of a consortium.
- DOC Economic Development Administration Public Works, Economic Adjustment, and Global Climate Change Mitigation Programs Opportunity – Likely ~$25 million. Applications due: Depends on funding cycle; next funding cycle is due Sept. 15, 2011. Eligible applicants: State and local governments, federally recognized tribes, nonprofits, private institutions of higher education.
- DOE Weatherization Formula Grants – Likely to be approximately $210 million. Applications due: Varies by program year. Eligible applicants: Agencies that administer the Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP). For more information, contact Meghaan Hampton or visit the FedConnect website.

Source: DOE Tribal Energy Program, 6/15/11

Learn more about funding solicitations.

This news item comes to you as a service of Western's Renewable Resources Program.